

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

031088 U.S.PTO  
10/689665

Mail Stop Patent Application  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Atty. Dkt.: 30-569  
 Date: October 22, 2003

Sir:

Attached for filing is the patent application of:

Inventor: LAINE et al

Entitled: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE THICKENING OF FIBER SUSPENSIONS**

and including attachments as noted below:

- C**opy of Declaration from prior application,  
**21** pages of specification and claims (including 25 numbered claims), and  
**2** sheets of accompanying drawing/s.

- Priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based on the following foreign applications:

Application Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed
982043	Finland	23 September 1998
982565	Finland	26 November 1998
PCT/FI99/00778		22 September 1999

, respectively, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application..

- Copies of the Finnish priority documents were filed with the International Bureau

Certified copy(ies) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ in prior appln. no. \_\_\_\_\_ filed \_\_\_\_\_

- This application is a division of Application No. 09/787,629, filed March 21, 2001, which in turn was th US national phase of international application PCT/FI99/00778 filed 22 September 1999, which designated th U.S., the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.

- The prior application is assigned to ANDRITZ OY, Helsinki, Finland.

It is hereby requested that the Examiner consider the art cited in the parent application by applicant and/or the Examiner for the reasons stated therein. A PTO-1449 is also attached listing the citations. Please initial, date and return a copy of the PTO-1449. Pursuant to Rule 98(d), copies of the listed citations have not been provided.

- Please enter the attached preliminary amendment prior to calculation of filing fee

**FILING FEE IS BASED ON CLAIMS AS FILED LESS ANY HEREWITH CANCELED**

Basic Filing Fee	\$	770.00
Total effective claims 19 - 20 (at least 20) = 0	x \$ 18.00	\$ 0.00
Independent claims 1 - 3 (at least 3) = 0	x \$ 86.00	\$ 0.00
If any proper multiple dependent claims now added for first time, add \$290.00 (ignore improper)	\$	0.00
SUBTOTAL	\$	770.00
If "small entity," then enter half (1/2) of subtotal and subtract	-\$(	0.00)
SECOND SUBTOTAL	\$	770.00
Assignment Recording Fee (\$40.00)	\$	0.00
TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED	\$	770.00

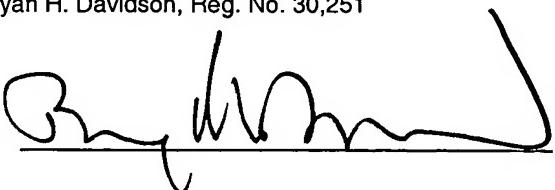
Any future submission requiring an extension of time is hereby stated to include a petition for such time extension.  
 The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Correspondence Address:

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NIXON &amp; VANDERHYE P.C.

By Atty: Bryan H. Davidson, Reg. No. 30,251

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